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# NEWS AND NOTES

Hedwigia for February, 1909, contains a biographical sketch, by Lindau, with portrait, of Paul Hennings, late curator of fungi at the Berlin Botanic Garden. The substance of this sketch, with the exception of the biblography, was reproduced in the Botanical Gazette for March.

Professor Hennings was born in a village in Holstein in 1841, and, after a short term at school, became an assistant in the botanic garden at Kiel under Nolte. He afterwards matriculated at Kiel and spent a few months there in study, but was in the main self-taught. In 1874, he began work on the cryptogams at Kiel as assistant to Eichler, and was called by Eichler to Berlin for this work in 1880. After a few years at Berlin, he devoted himself entirely to building up and studying the mycological collections, and, in 1902, was appointed royal professor. His published papers are numerous, those on tropical fungi alone probably numbering over two hundred.

For a number of years, Professor Hennings' health has been failing, and his arduous duties have allowed him scarcely any time for rest or recreation. The recent death of his son was a sad blow to him. Being sensitive and reserved in disposition and poetic in temperament, he felt deeply and keenly. He was often misjudged because of his retiring nature, but was exceedingly friendly and helpful to those seeking assistance in mycological work.

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The Florida Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin, No. 94, contains a summary of the "Fungus Diseases of Scale Insects and Whitefly," by H. S. Fawcett. The climate of Florida is especially suited to the combating of scale insect diseases by the use of their natural enemies, the fungi, and nowhere else in the world have these agencies been employed for that purpose to such as extent as in that state. The fungi which naturally grow on scale insects cannot grow on plants, so that their introduction for combating the scale insect cannot result in injury to the crops themselves.

Some of the fungi which have been employed in this work are the red-headed fungus, *Sphaerostilbe coccophila* Tul., the white-headed fungus, *Ophionectria coccicola* Ellis and Everh., the black fungus, *Myriangium Duriaei* Mont., the yellow fungus of the whitefly, *Aschersonia flavo-citrina* P. Henn., the red fungus of the whitefly, *Aschersonia Aleyrodis* Webber, and the brown fungus of whitefly, which bears no scientific name. The fungi here named have been known for years and used successfully, but, to ensure success, observations and treatment must be conducted with care. The material for use in connection with this kind of work is supplied by private parties.

A later publication by the same author on the subject of "Fungi Parasitic upon *Aleyrodes citri*" has been prepared as a thesis at the State University of Florida. This account records two other species of fungi, *Verticillium heterocladum* Penz., and *Microcera* sp., which are parasitic on *Aleyrodes citri* R. & H. and on scale insects.

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In an article by J. Lagarde on "*Conditions biologoques et répartition des champignons dans le massif de l'Aigoual*" (Bull. Soc. Myc. de Fr. **24**: 197–220. 1909), the author deals with the difficult and interesting question of the distribution of the higher fungi as determined by the character of different localities, which are grouped as follows: (1) Cultivated valleys, (2) chestnut and oak woods, covering the lower mountain slopes, (3) coniferous woods, especially those planted in pine, (4) beech woods, on the higher slopes, (5) wet ravines, (6) pastures and other exposed places not under cultivation.

A list of species is given for each of these groups, and the habitats of many of the species are discussed. In the cultivated valleys are found, *Agaricus campestris, Panaeolus papilionaceus,* several species of *Coprinus, Schizophyllum alneum, Coriolus versicolor,* etc. A much longer list is given for the chestnut and oak woods, species of *Amanita, Lactarius, Russula, Boletus* and *Tricholoma* being prominent. *Amanita caesarea* is cited as being adapted, like the chestnut, to sandy soil, or soil free from lime, and conditions of moderate temperature and humidity. Wood-destroying species are discussed briefly.

In the coniferous woods, which have succeeded beech woods, the boleti predominate, especially *Boletus flavus* and *Boletus luteus,* which require resinous substances in the soil, and *Lactarius deliciosus* is also common. The beech forests furnish a large number of fungi. Among the larger forms, species of *Amanita, Russula* and *Clavaria* are conspicuous. *Amanita muscaria, Boletus edulis, Cantharellus cibarius* and *Hydnum repandum* are common. In wet ravines, certain species of discomycetes are found; also *Boletus scaber* and a few other moisture-loving species. In pastures, *Lepiota procera, Agaricus campestris,* species of *Lycoperdon,* and *Marasmius oreades* are the most important.

This is a very inviting field for the student of plant relations and one of great importance in connection with the study of associated higher plants. It requires, however, special training in mycology.

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Mr. A. O. Garrett, of Salt Lake, Utah, has for several years been collecting and distributing the parasitic fungi of Utah. The following notes on the methods he has found most satisfactory in collecting rusts will doubtless be of assistance to others:

"In collecting the rusts, manila envelopes in which pamphlets, etc., have been received, are found to be very serviceable. When collecting, the affected leaves are piled up between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand; and when the pile becomes sufficiently large, it is transferred to the manila envelope. This is repeated until a sufficient quantity is gathered. The envelope not only prevents the spores of one species from becoming mixed with those of some other, but the leaves are kept in better shape for transferring to the press later. Of course, the envelope will not be used a second time; nor, for that matter, will the paper in which the specimens have been pressed. In these days of such diverse ideas in botanical naming, it becomes imperative that portions of the host-plant should be collected with the fungus, so that its identity may be preserved throughout the series of revisions that take place.

"In preparing the fungi for distribution, 'home-made' envelopes are not only superior in quality, but also cost about one fourth as much as those obtained from dealers in botanical supplies. These envelopes should be made from a good quality of bond paper. This paper comes in three sizes: 17 × 22, 17 × 28, and 19 × 24 inches. The 17 × 22 size cuts into nine pieces, each 5⅔ × 7⅓. This can be folded into an envelope approximately 2½ × 6; or, folding the other way, 3¼ × 4½. Larger envelopes are sometimes needed, and these can be cut from the 19 × 24 sheet. Cutting three times each way, the resulting piece is 6⅓ × 8 inches. This folds into an envelope either 3 × 6¾ or 3¾ × 5 inches.

"Labels can be printed most cheaply by having the work done at some printing shop that makes label-printing a specialty. Here they will be printed at approximately a third of the price charged by the local printer. The labels are fastened to the envelopes by white glue made about as thick as thin cream."

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The thirty-first annual report of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station contains a descriptive list of more than fifty of the common plant diseases of that state, by F. L. Stevens and J. G. Hall, illustrated by ten plates.

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A discussion by Mr. Fred J. Seaver of "Color Variation in Some of the Fungi" (Bull. Torrey Club **35**: 307. 1908) calls attention to certain marked changes of color which occur in some species. The several illustrations, which are taken from the order Hypocreales, show the confusion resulting from the description of new species in this order, when based on color alone.

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Under the title "Studies in North American Peronosporales—III" (Bull. Torrey Club **35**: 361. 1908), several new and noteworthy species are listed by Professor G. W. Wilson. No. IV of the same series of papers (Bull. Torrey Club **35**: 543. 1908) consists of a host index of the commonly recognized American species of the order.

The Tenth Report of the Michigan Academy of Science contains a paper by C. H. Kauffman (**10**: 63–84. 1908) on unreported Michigan fungi for 1907, with an outline of the gasteromycetes of the state. This outline of the puff-balls and their relatives should be exceedingly helpful to students of this group anywhere in the northern United States.

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Mycorhiza-producing basidiomycetes are discussed in a short paper by L. H. Pennington in the Tenth Report of the Michigan Academy of Science (**10**: 47–49. 1908). After a brief review of the work of others, the author describes the observations which led him to add *Boletus speciosus, Russula emetica, Tricholoma transmutans,* and an additional species of *Cortinarius* to the list of higher fungi that may produce mycorhiza upon the roots of certain species of oak.

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Bulletin 144 of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture contains an article by W. M. Scott and J. B. Rorer devoted to the cause and treatment of the Apple Blotch, a disease which is very destructive to apples and is widely distributed over the eastern part of the United States. The disease is caused by *Phyllosticta solitaria* Ellis & Everh., and attacks the leaves, branches and fruit, but is most conspicuous on the branches and fruit.

The first appearance of the disease on the fruit is a very small light brown blotch. The blotch spreads until it attains often a diameter of one half an inch. The fungus destroys only the outer layers of cells and the continued growth of the tissues beneath causes a cracking of the diseased areas, the cracks often being one half an inch long. The disease mars the appearance of the fruit and unfits it for the market.

The experiments of the authors of the article have shown that the disease may be controlled by spraying with Bordeaux mixture. Full details as to the application of the remedy are contained in the bulletin named above.